(iii) Agreement signed between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Deutsche Forschungsanstalt Fur Luft-Unc Raumfahrt (DLR), West Genrmany on current and new thrusts of collaborative efforts between the two organisations on peaceful uses of outer space in the areas of space sciences, Technology and Applications.

(b) In collaborative arrangements with different countries, research projects are carried out jointly with complementary efforts. While there are ongoing collaborative activities with several countries, there is no formal offer of assistance from any foreign country for space research projects.

Foreign assistance in Ocean Development

1689. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the countries which are assisting India in Ocean Development;

(b) what is the nature of assistance and what are the proposals for foreign assistance under consideration; and

(c) whether any negotiations are in the offing in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Oceanographic Research Vessel Sagar Kanya and Fishery Oceanographic Research Vessel Sagar Sampada have been procured by the Department of Ocean Development under Soft Loan assistance extended by the Government of Federal Republic of Germany and Denmark, respectively.

(c) Negotiations are underway to procure a coastal oceanographic research vessel with the Soft Loan assistance to be made available by the Government of Denmark.

1690. [*Transferred to the 10th August 1989*].

Completion of civil construction work of Department of Telecommunications

1691. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the civil construction programmes for different needs of the telecommunications department throughout the country are lagging behind the target dates for their completion;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a result of delay most of the exchange development programmes for telephones are also being delayed;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(d) the details of jobs completed during the past three years and of those undertaking during the period and are still on the process of completion; and

(e) the efforts proposed to be made to expedite the ongoing jobs and to maintain schedules pertaining to completion time and date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Telephone exchange equipment supply programme is planned to match with the availability of the exchange building. Hence development of telephone system does not suffer because of buildings.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) Regular monitoring of all on-going works is being done to maintain schedules pertaining to completion time and date.